

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAJ-01

IO-14 DRC-01 /101 W

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R 230800Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1338

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBECY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF WATERGATE CASE

1. MAY 22 EDITION OF SEMI-OFFICIAL MAGYAR HIRLAP CARRIES FIRST SUBSTANTIAL PRESS COMMENTARY ON WATERGATE EVENTS IN HUNGARY. PRIOR TO THIS DATE, COVERAGE HAS CONSISTED OF REGULAR NEWS REPORTS, USUALLY BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS OF HSWP DAILY NEPSZABADSAG ISTVAN KOVACS AND MTI WIRE SERVICE KOVES TIBOR AND COMMENTARY BY MAGYAR NEMZET'S US CORRESPONDENT AVAR JANOS.

2. IN FOUR-COLUMN ARTICLE HALASZ GYORGY GIVES A FACTUAL RECAP OF THE MORE RECENT EVENTS, INCLUDING PUBLICATION OF THE TAPE TRANSCRIPTS AND MEDIA REACTION TO IT, AND REVIEWS THE MECHANICS OF THE IMPEACHMENT PROCESS. HALASZ ALSO DESCRIBES THE CONTROVERSY OVER DEMANDS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION AND ANALYZES THE POSITIONS OF REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC LEADERS ON THE SUBJECT.

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3. ARTICLE IS A FAIRLY FACTUAL AND OBJECTIVE ASSESS-

MENT OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE IMPEACHMENT ISSUE.
THE THRUST OF THE ARTICLE IS SUPPORTIVE OF THE OPINION
AND HOPE THAT WHILE THE OUTCOME APPEARS NOW TO BE IN
DOUBT, THE PRESIDENT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE IMPEACHED.

4. COMMENT: HALASZ'S ARTICLE SEEMS TO FIT IN WITH THE
TREND VISIBLE IN OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO GIVE
GREATER MEDIA COVERAGE TO, AND AUGMENT EDITORIAL COMMENT
ON THE PREVIOUSLY DOWNPLAYED WATERGATE AND IMPEACHMENT
ISSUES.
PEDERSEN

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